

leaving London, but many thousands still remained. Some of these were only waiting to receive their charters of liberty, which had not all been drawn up on Friday.<sup>1</sup> But a large section declared that they were not yet satisfied. Many of them were wise enough to perceive that there would be no security for what had been gained, unless the King and government were kept under the pressure which had extorted the concessions. It is hard to say what form of political settlement they contemplated. They had probably many different views on the question, all more or less confused. They cared nothing for Parliamentary institutions, which were the special machinery of the classes opposed to them; so they did not demand an extension of the franchise. The absurd accusations of intending to kill the King and restore the Heptarchy were sufficiently refuted by the action of the mob at Smithfield, where their patient loyalty to Richard was even pathetic. It is possible that the leader who was now at the head of the rebels remaining in London, had some design of securing for himself a permanent share in the government of the country, probably by directing the counsels of the King. But even Wat Tyler's designs met with only half support from his followers, if we may judge from the acquiescent manner in which they accepted his death at the hands of Wai worth. There were social grievances still left which they wished to redress. According to one of the most trustworthy accounts, they demanded the disendowment of the Church in the interest of the peasants, the free use of woods by the tenants on each estate, the abolition of outlawry and the removal of the elaborate system of modern police and justice which the Statute of Labourers had rendered odious. They also wanted the game laws abolished.<sup>2</sup> No doubt, too, Froissart is right in saying that many of those who stayed on in London only stayed to loot.

The authorities were still face to face with the same problem that had baffled them the day before ; they had still to get rid of the mob. They were determined to make an end of the situation, cost what it might, and expected to come to blows by one way or another in the course of the day. The King and his nobles first went to prepare themselves for the

<sup>1</sup> Wals., 1 463-7.    <sup>2</sup> Knighton, ii. 137 ; H. .f., 519 ; Kriehn, 477-81.